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(71) Applicant: SCRIPPS CLINIC AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION [US/US]; 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037 (US).

(72) Inventors: MILICH, David ; 11591 Polaris, Mira Mesa, CA 92126 (US). CHISARI, Frank ; 1010 Crest Road, Del Mar, CA 92014 (US).

(74) Agents: GAMSON, Edward, P.; Dressler, Goldsmith, Shore, Sutker & Milnamow, Ltd., 1800 Prudential Plaza, Chicago, IL 60601 (US) et al.

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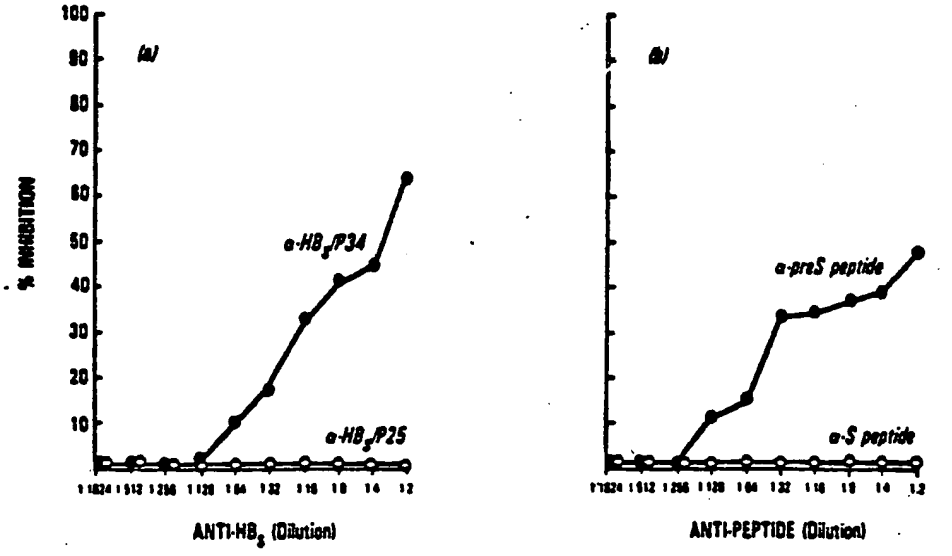

(57) Abstract

A single polypeptide antigen that includes the amino acid residue sequence and epitope of a conformation-independent antigenic determinant and the amino acid residue sequence but lacks the epitope of a conformation-dependent antigenic determinant and methods of its manufacture and use and articles of manufacture using the same. The uses of the pre-S(2) region polypeptide encoded by the hepatitis B virus genome as a T cell proliferating agent and as a potentiator for enhancing the humoral immune response of animals that exhibit a low humoral response to an S region-containing immunogen are also disclosed.